CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

[c01] A computerized method for performing a project on a global basis, the method comprising:

creating the project using a globally-accessible system;

creating a plurality of tollgates, activities, and tasks associated with the project using the globally-accessible system;

selecting a plurality of individuals to perform the plurality of activities and tasks;

notifying the plurality of individuals which of the plurality of activities and tasks each has been selected to perform using the globally-accessible system;

collecting status information related to the plurality of tollgates, activities, and tasks from the plurality of individuals using the globally-accessible system;

communicating the status of the plurality of tollgates, activities, and tasks to the plurality of individuals using the globally-accessible system; and

monitoring the progress of the project using the globally-accessible system.

[c02] The method of claim 1, wherein the globally-accessible system further comprises a globally-distributed computer network.

[c03] The method of claim 2, wherein the globally-accessible system further comprises a local area network (LAN).

[c04] The method of claim 2, wherein the globally-accessible system further comprises a wide area network (WAN).

[c05] The method of claim 1, wherein the globally-accessible system further comprises a planning module operable for acquiring information related to the

plurality of tollgates, activities, and tasks from the plurality of individuals, manipulating the information related to the plurality of tollgates, activities, and tasks, and communicating the information related to the plurality of tollgates, activities, and tasks to the plurality of individuals.

[c06] The method of claim 1, wherein notifying the plurality of individuals which of the plurality of activities and tasks each has been selected to perform using the globally-accessible system further comprises notifying the plurality of individuals which of the plurality of activities and tasks each has been selected to perform using Email.

[c07] The method of claim 1, wherein collecting status information related to the plurality of tollgates, activities, and tasks from the plurality of individuals using the globally-accessible system further comprises collecting at least one of work descriptions, percent completion, expected start/completion dates, actual start/completion dates, slip weeks, impact, and comments.

[c08] The method of claim 1, wherein communicating the status of the plurality of tollgates, activities, and tasks to the plurality of individuals using the globally-accessible system further comprises communicating the status of the plurality of tollgates, activities, and tasks to the plurality of individuals simultaneously.

[c09] The method of claim 8, wherein communicating the status of the plurality of tollgates, activities, and tasks to the plurality of individuals using the globally-accessible system further comprises communicating the status of the plurality of tollgates, activities, and tasks to the plurality of individuals using a plurality of color-coded visual aids.

[c10] The method of claim 1, wherein the project is a new product introduction project.

[c11] A computerized method for performing a new product introduction project on a global basis, the method comprising:

creating the project using a globally-accessible system;

creating a plurality of tollgates, activities, and tasks associated with the project using the globally-accessible system;

selecting a plurality of individuals to perform the plurality of activities and tasks;

notifying the plurality of individuals which of the plurality of activities and tasks each has been selected to perform using the globally-accessible system;

collecting status information related to the plurality of tollgates, activities, and tasks from the plurality of individuals using the globally-accessible system;

simultaneously communicating the status of the plurality of tollgates, activities, and tasks to the plurality of individuals using the globally-accessible system; and

monitoring the progress of the project using the globally-accessible system.

[c12] The method of claim 11, wherein the globally-accessible system further comprises a globally-distributed computer network, such as the Internet or an intranet.

[c13] The method of claim 12, wherein the globally-accessible system further comprises a local area network (LAN).

[c14] The method of claim 12, wherein the globally-accessible system further comprises a wide area network (WAN).

[c15] The method of claim 11, wherein the globally-accessible system further comprises a planning module operable for acquiring information related to the plurality of tollgates, activities, and tasks from the plurality of individuals, manipulating the information related to the plurality of tollgates, activities, and tasks, and communicating the information related to the plurality of tollgates, activities, and tasks to the plurality of individuals.

[c16] The method of claim 11, wherein notifying the plurality of individuals which of the plurality of activities and tasks each has been selected to perform using the

globally-accessible system further comprises notifying the plurality of individuals which of the plurality of activities and tasks each has been selected to perform using Email.

[c17] The method of claim 11, wherein collecting status information related to the plurality of tollgates, activities, and tasks from the plurality of individuals using the globally-accessible system further comprises collecting at least one of work descriptions, percent completion, expected start/completion dates, actual start/completion dates, slip weeks, impact, and comments.

[c18] A computerized system for performing a project on a global basis, the system comprising:

a planning module operable for acquiring information related to a plurality of tollgates, activities, and tasks associated with the project from a plurality of individuals, storing the information related to the plurality of tollgates, activities, and tasks, and transferring the information related to the plurality of tollgates, activities, and tasks to the plurality of individuals;

a processor operable for manipulating the information related to the plurality of tollgates, activities, and tasks; and

a communications network operable for communicating the information related to the plurality of tollgates, activities, and tasks to and from the plurality of individuals.

[c19] The system of claim 18, wherein the communications network further comprises a globally-distributed computer network.

[c20] The system of claim 19, wherein the communications network further comprises a local area network (LAN).

[c21] The system of claim 19, wherein the communications network further comprises a wide area network (WAN).

[c22] The system of claim 18, wherein the planning module is operable for automatically electronically notifying the plurality of individuals which of the plurality of activities and tasks each has been selected to perform.

[c23] The system of claim 18, wherein the planning module is operable for acquiring and transferring information related to at least one of work descriptions, percent completion, expected start/completion dates, actual start/completion dates, slip weeks, impact, and comments.

[c24] The system of claim 18, wherein the planning module is operable for simultaneously communicating the status of the plurality of tollgates, activities, and tasks to the plurality of individuals.

[c25] The system of claim 18, wherein the project is a new product introduction project.

[c26] A computerized system for performing a new product introduction project on a global basis, the system comprising:

a planning module operable for acquiring information related to a plurality of tollgates, activities, and tasks associated with the project from a plurality of individuals simultaneously, storing the information related to the plurality of tollgates, activities, and tasks, and transferring the information related to the plurality of tollgates, activities, and tasks to the plurality of individuals simultaneously;

a processor operable for manipulating the information related to the plurality of tollgates, activities, and tasks; and

a communications network operable for communicating the information related to the plurality of tollgates, activities, and tasks to and from the plurality of individuals.

[c27] The system of claim 26, wherein the communications network further comprises a globally-distributed computer network, such as the Internet or an intranet.

[c28] The system of claim 27, wherein the communications network further comprises a local area network (LAN).

[c29] The system of claim 27, wherein the communications network further comprises a wide area network (WAN).

[c30] The system of claim 26, wherein the planning module is operable for notifying the plurality of individuals which of the plurality of activities and tasks each has been selected to perform using Email.

[c31] The system of claim 26, wherein the planning module is operable for acquiring and transferring information related to at least one of work descriptions, percent completion, expected start/completion dates, actual start/completion dates, slip weeks, impact, and comments.